



3348 West Broadway, Vancouver BC V6R 2B2 Tel: (604) 732-7734
Email: Info@acrbc.ca; Website: www.acrbc.ca

07 June 2010

Geoff Plant
Chair of the Board, Providence Health Care
1081 Burrard Street
Vancouver, BC V6Z 1Y6

Dear Mr. Plant,

Re: Providence Health Care and Riverview transfers

We are writing you as Chair, of the Providence Health Care Board, entrusted with the governance of Providence Health Care, to share our observations and concerns about these Riverview transfers and the vision and mission of Providence Health Care.

Attached is your copy of our letter to the Ministry of Health regarding the transfer of Riverview patients to two Providence Health Care residential care facilities. ACR (Association of Advocates for Care Reform) has been promoting quality of life and care in residential care facilities in BC since 1991, through both development and support of Family Councils in residential care facilities and systemic advocacy.

As outlined in our attached letter, we support and welcome the long overdue transfer of Riverview patients to community based facilities. At the same time, we are dismayed that their proposed transfer to the two Providence Health residential care facilities (Youville Residence and St. Vincent's Langara) will adversely affect not only the ill, disabled elderly residents who will be relocated, but also will result in a net loss of needed residential care beds in the community.

This Riverview proposal will result in the loss of 62 Providence Health residential beds (20 at St. Vincent's Langara and 42 at Youville Residence.) It is sadly noted that these bed losses are in addition to earlier bed losses that were incurred when the former St. Vincent's Arbutus site (74 beds) and St. Vincent's Heather site (75 beds) were closed. This Riverview proposal will bring the total loss of Providence Health Care residential beds to 211 within the last ten years. To add insult to injury these pending losses are single and double room losses - which are highly desirable and in short supply in residential care facilities in the community - particularly in Providence Health residential care facilities. As you may be aware, the recent (October 2009) Residential Care Regulations,

although applicable only to those facilities under the CCAL Act, require single bed rooms as the new standard in residential care.

There are many concerns about this proposed transfer of Riverview patients. Those in residential care that will be adversely affected, their family and friends are quite distressed. We, in ACR share their concerns that are addressed in the copied letter attached.

Also, as there seems to be a continuing and significant decline in the provision of residential care beds within Providence Health Care, we wonder if there is a plan for Providence Health Care to no longer provide residential care?

If so, such a plan would seem to contradict the vision and mission of Providence Health Care which has long served to provide compassionate care for those who are amongst the marginalized of society - a description which is most fitting for the ill, disabled, elderly of our community who find themselves in need of residential care.

We hope this is not the case. We would rather that the Providence Health Care Board and Leadership Team be committed to providing a needed and strong leadership role, amongst health care providers in BC. A commitment that would encompass advocating for improved resourcing and quality of care for the ill, disabled and elderly in residential care – there is so much that needs improvement.

Regrettably, as those entering residential care have become increasingly ill upon admission, the resourcing levels, provision of needed multidisciplinary health care teams, programs and services for their care has markedly declined.

We have enclosed some brochures about our work and if you would like, would be pleased to meet with you.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Kathleen Hamilton and JoAnn Perry
for, the ACR Board

Attach (3)